

Nathaniel Friend, Jr. House
27-29 Bollingbrook Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-651

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

NATHANIEL FRIEND, JR. HOUSE

Location: 27-29 Bollingbrook Street (northeast corner of Bollingbrook Street and Cockade Alley), Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hudson, 26 Bollingbrook Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Unused. There were shops on the first floor with living quarters above. A kitchen and smokehouse were in the rear.

Statement of Significance: The main portion of this Federal style building was built in 1816 for Nathaniel Friend, Jr. of White Hall Plantation, Prince George County, with shops below and living quarters above. This building is significant because of its simple lines, plan arrangement, and partially remaining original interior woodwork.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1816 (Deed from William Haxall to Nathaniel Friend, 8/17/1815, and Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Declaration #698 11/18/1816, Virginia State Library, Richmond.)
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Complete chain of title for the building follows. Deed Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

The Fort Henry Branch (Petersburg, Virginia) of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities is in the process of acquiring this property.

1815 Deed August 17, 1815 recorded in
Book 5 page 55
William Haxall
Hentry Haxall
Jane Grey Haxall
to
Nathaniel Friend

1916 Deed January 27, 1916 recorded in
Book 87 page 38
Benjamin Friend

to
Walter Sachs

1917 Deed March 15, 1917 recorded in
Book 90 page 49
Walter Sachs
Fannie Sachs
to
Andrew D. Christian (tr.)
P. H. Drewry (tr.)
Atlantic Life Insurance Company

1922 Deed May 8, 1922 recorded in
Book 101 page 57
Andrew D. Christian (tr.)
P. H. Drewry (tr.)
Atlantic Life Insurance Company
to
Virginia Trust Company
ex. of W. W. Donnan

1941 Deed March 27, 1941 recorded in
Book 142 page 330
Virginia Trust Company
ex. of W. W. Donnan
to
Frank Hudson
Susie M. Hudson

4. Original plans and construction: Main building "of brick construction with slate, 3 stories high, 44 by 44" (Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Declaration #698 11/18/1816, Virginia State Library, Richmond.)

5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

"Nathaniel Friend, Jr. (1779-1850) was born at Baldwins in Chesterfield County, Virginia, one of seven children of Nathaniel Friend (1741-1795) and Sally Walthal (1747-1795).

"About 1812 he married Elizabeth Gilliam, daughter of William Gilliam (1760-1801) and Christian Epps of City Point Farm. Records of only three surviving children have been found: John Gilliam Friend, born 1813, Charles Friend, born 1818, and Dr. Nathaniel Friend who died in New Orleans in 1849.

"As early as 1808 Nathaniel Friend, Jr., was a wealthy import-export merchant in the town of Petersburg. He was elected mayor in 1812. His plantation of 435 acres, known as White Hall, was purchased from John Gilliam about 1798.

"After the great fire of 1815, (July 16) which burned many square blocks of earlier frame buildings in the old Petersburg area, he purchased the corner of Bollingbrook Street and Market Lane (Cockade Alley) for \$7,000 from... William Haxall. In 1816 the Virginia Mutual Assurance Society issued to him an insurance policy (#698) for \$21,000 covering three new brick buildings on this corner." (Nathaniel Friend House 1816. Petersburg: Fort Henry Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities; undated, unpagged pamphlet.)

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A brick row house with stores on the first floor. An excellent example of the combination commercial-living rows typical of the period.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor, both exterior and interior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A complex shape in the sense that there are several units attached together, end to end, but basically it is rectangular. The overall dimensions are approximately 48' x 117' and there are basically four parts. The front part (fronting on Bollingbrook St.) is the main part and it is about 48' x 48'. Three and one-half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) stories plus a partial basement; the second part back is a combination of one (1) and three (3) story elements. The one-story part was originally a colonaded entrance for the entire building, but has since been bricked in. The next two parts back can be considered as one unit from the exterior (visually) but are two (2) and three (3) stories respectively. Only the front part has any basement.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Brick.
4. Chimneys: Five (5) brick chimneys, four (4) on main part (two each side) and one (1) on rear part. Front chimneys are each halfway up roof line. Those on left (facing building) have been broken off at roof line. Two (2) on right partially

broken off. The right exterior wall was formerly a party wall for an adjacent building and there is evidence that these chimneys were common to that building also.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Several exterior entrances, none of particular note. In front there are three: one each side to stores and one in middle to stairway for upper floors.
- b. Windows and shutters: First floor front has modern type store front glass windows, second and third floors have double hung, six-over-six sash. Front is six (6) window bays wide. On east side of main part at attic level there is a wide shallow arched window that has been filled in.

6. Porches: None.

7. Structural system: Brick party wall system in first, third and fourth parts of building. No roof structure exposed. Inaccessible because of wall and ceiling finish in attic.
8. Roof shape and covering: First part gabled, tin covering; second part flat; third and fourth parts gabled, tin covering, All ribs 18" to 24" O.C., varying.
9. Cornice: Small molded bricks project from wall, main part, at cornice line.
10. Dormers: Four (4) dormers, on main part, two in front and two in rear. Front dormers are more ornately detailed, with pilasters and arched tops under the pediments. No detailing of note in rear.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans, general: Rambling floor plans have been altered many times. Rear parts were originally service buildings. Upper floors of all parts are now converted to rooming house units. Floor plan description relates primarily to main part.
2. Floor plans, specific: Basement, small partial basement under each store. On front, basement is accessible from sidewalk. On rear, basement is accessible from stairs. Second floor: Rooms opening off central hall. Third floor similar. Attic floor accessible only from main part, and consists of four rooms.
3. Stairways: Stairways have been considerably altered in building. One stair leads from first floor private entrance to second

floor. Stairs to second and third floor in main part have been altered, but are in same general location as originally planned. Other stairs lead up from second and fourth parts.

4. Flooring: Wood flooring, poor condition.
5. Wall and ceiling finishes: All walls and most ceilings are plastered. All in very poor condition.
6. Doorways and doors: None noteworthy.
7. Details and trim: Window casings are of interest. Casing is sprayed and paneled. Moulded trim extends from floor to head. Below window sill to floor is paneling. Some mantels remaining; pilasters each side, recessed panels and projecting head across top of fire box.
8. Lighting: Modern.
9. Heating: Unknown.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Faces south on Bollingbrook St. at the corner of Bollingbrook and Cockade Alley. Directly across the alley to the west is the Farmer's Bank, dating from the early 1800's, and down at the end of Cockade Alley to the north is the old Farmer's Market. The entire area is somewhat run down. The building is set back approximately 8' from the street.
2. Landscaping and walks: Sidewalk in front, no landscaping.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall

J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.